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CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

C.S.6, Special Branch.

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

Date

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
FILED IN REGISTRY

No. N. 33 (C)

Date May 25, 1940

Subject Two German seamen missing - Request by German Consulate-General

Made by D.S.I. Wittinsky Forwarded by Supt. Mason.

In accordance with the instructions of Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch) exhaustive and discreet enquiries were made by the undersigned as to the whereabouts of K.H.H. Effert and H.J. Rechlin when the following information was gleaned :-

In November 1938 three German-Aryans named :-

(1) Karl Heinrich Hermann Effert, age 25, single, radio engineer,

(2) Hans Joachim Rechlin, age 20, single, seaman, and

(3) Arthur Hans Walter Hintze, age 22, single, barber,

who have political views in opposition to the Nazi regime and who were about to be mobilized and recruited, fled from Berlin to Amsterdam (Netherlands). There they became acquainted

with one named Heinrich Hans, German, age 26, a deserter from the German Army. After a stay of about four months in Amsterdam, they learned, that the German Authorities were taking steps through their Consular representative to extradite them to Germany. Having provided themselves with "stateless" passports, the four of them decided to make their way to the Far East arriving in Singapore in April 1939. From there they proceeded to Bangkok where, after a brief stay of about a week, they proceeded to Saigon and from where they arrived in Shanghai in June 1939 aboard the s.s. "Athos II". Upon arrival here they registered with the International Committee for the Organization of European Immigrants In China and were placed into the Kinchow Road Camp.

About three months later, Hintze obtained employment in a barber shop at 226 Broadway and went to live at 24 Yunchang Road together with Rechlin. Effert was, in the meantime,

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endeavouring to secure a job as a radio technician by calling at various foreign firms, but without success. Finally he met a certain Mr. Pflug, whom he believed to be a Czechoslovakian, and who, it was later revealed, is the secretary of the American Dispensary, 226 Nanking Road, and concurrently the secretary and treasurer of the German Relief Association. Mr. H.W. Pflug on having learned that Effert is a German-Aryan, took him to the "Deutsche Gemeinde" (German Community) at 97 Jinkee Road, where he was registered and given the sum of \$20 relief, which monetary assistance became regular and was paid weekly. Having been in the position to leave the Refugee Camp, Effert took up residence at Lane 245, No.53 Pingliang Road at which address he lived until the 20.5.40.

Rechlin, who has been informed by Effert of the latter's "fortune" also went to the "Deutsche Gemeinde" and was given the same monetary assistance.

With the commencement of the European war both Effert and Rechlin were registered in the German Consulate where they were given to understand that the assistance given to them would not be discontinued in future, provided they sign documents to the effect that the money received by them will be returned or deducted from their wages on their return to Germany. These documents were signed by Effert and Rechlin.

In the meantime Hintze became acquainted with a Chinese female, who eventually became his paramour. This necessitated Rechlin's removal from 24 Yuenchang Road and in November 1939 he again took up residence in a Refugee Camp, this time at 1090 Pingliang Road.

On the 18.5.40 Effert and Rechlin were called to the

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German Consulate where they were informed that they are about to be repatriated and that they should come for their passports and tickets on the 20.5.40 a.m. They called, accordingly, on the date specified at the Consulate and were given passports, tickets and U.S. \$21.00 travelling expenses and were instructed to be at the North Railway Station at 1 p.m. where they would be met by Mr. Brauweiler, of the German Consulate, who would see them off. Effert and Rechlin, however, failed to turn up and the former, having packed his belongings, hurriedly removed from his residence to an unknown destination (believed to be the French Concession), whilst Rechlin, who had given a fictitious address to the German Consular officials (426 Broadway) remained at 1090 Pingliang Road until the 23.5.40, when he fled and is also believed to be seeking security in the French Concession.

According to information obtained, the cause of Rechlin's flight was the arrival of three European civilians, believed to be agents of the "Gestapo", accompanied by two Japanese gendarmes, on the 23.5.40, a.m. at 1090 Pingliang Road, who enquired as to Rechlin's whereabouts.

Further information has been obtained to the effect that Effert has returned his passage ticket, per registered letter, to the German Consulate, on the 21.5.40, whilst Rechlin's ticket was handed over to a German Consular official, at 2 Peking Road, on the 23.5.40, by H. Hans who immediately afterwards left the premises without disclosing his identity. The sum of U.S. \$21 travelling expenses was, however, retained by the two men.

* D. 9522 (E)

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Both Effert and Rechlin consider themselves to be political refugees and in view of the rumour, that the local "Gestapo" agents are on their tracks, they will probably make an attempt to make their way to Macao considering it a safer place than Shanghai.

O. Hitting.
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

Section 1, Special Branch

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE	
SP. BR. REGISTRY	
No. N. 33	33
Date MAY 21, 1940	5/21/40

Subject: Two German seamen missing - request by German Consulate-General.

Made by... and... Forwarded by... D. I. Crawford

Does not want public notice or any other publicity. R.D.F.

*L.S. 6
Dissect but through enqs. please. R.D.F.*

*Wanted against negotiating tickets by H.C.B. R.D.F.
31/5*

Mr. Franz Brauweiler, Secretary of the German Consulate General, came to Headquarters on May 21st 1940 and was interviewed by D.I. Crawford.

He intimated that he was desirous of having the ^{discreetly} Police trace the whereabouts of two German merchant seamen who had disappeared while in Shanghai. The following particulars were furnished by Mr. Brauweiler:-

Those two seamen, (1) Karl Heinrich Hermann Effert, age 35, of medium height and build, dark hair, brown eyes and long face, lately living at House 53, Lane 245 Pingliang Road, and (2) Hanne Joachim Rechlin, age 20, medium height and build, dark hair, brown eyes and oval face, lately residing at 426 Broadway, had been called to the German Consulate on May 19th and issued with passports No. 247/40 and No. 248/40, respectively, (in their names), together with two railway tickets for Berlin via Siberia. The railway tickets costing G.\$230.00 were issued by the Union Steamship Co. (Intourist) and were routed Shanghai, Nanking, Dairen. Those two men were then instructed to leave Shanghai (North Railway Station) at 2 p.m., May 20th where they would be met by a consular official to see they boarded the train, but they never appeared at the North Station. The passports in their possession are valid for three months from 27.4.40. Both men

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have been in Shanghai since April and June of 1939 living at the above addresses, the residence of German nationals, and as far as the Consulate know have no other friends in Shanghai. They left their respective homes at 12 m.d. on May 20th 1940 and have not been seen since.

Two photographs of the missing seamen are attached to this report.

C. Crawford
D. I.

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D.C. (Special Branch)

Franz Brauweiler
Secretary of
German Consulate-General